
Advisory Council 2000 Member Recruitment - Fact Sheet

Introduction

Since January 1998, and continuing with the enactment of the Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998, the IRS has been working to provide top quality service to taxpayers by helping them understand and meet their tax responsibilities and by applying the tax law with integrity and fairness. To accomplish this new mission, the IRS needs to understand and solve problems from the taxpayer's point of view; ensure that managers are more accountable; and, implement balanced measures of performance to measure taxpayer and employee satisfaction. To meet these new objectives, the new IRS structure will be organized around four major taxpayer segments: wage and investment taxpayers; small businesses and self-employed taxpayers; large and mid-sized businesses; and, tax exempt and government entities.

The new IRS structure will significantly reduce the number of management layers and points of entry from 43 areas to four operating divisions, solely dedicated to the specific needs of each taxpayer segment. This new centralized focus will help ensure uniform and consistent practices across geographic lines. This change will be carefully synchronized to ensure a smooth transition to the new structure in late 2000.

Three elements are vital to the success of the modernization effort. First, it is essential that all participants in, and observers of, this process, acknowledge the realistic time requirements of full implementation. Second, continued resource support is necessary to ensure successful implementation. And third, continued interest and support from key stakeholders are critical and must be sustained. The modernization process is a wide-ranging and long-term endeavor based on a private-public partnership. The IRS is committed to continuing its stewardship of the tax administration function while implementing a more transparent, customer-focused system that will benefit taxpayers, tax professionals, and businesses well into the future.

The Advisory Council conveys the public's perceptions of IRS' activities, and is playing an important role as external evaluator of this concept, its implementation, and transition to the new organization. In addition, the group will continue to advise the IRS about current and future tax administration programs and initiatives.

Background

The Internal Revenue Service Advisory Council (formerly known as the Advisory Group to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue or Commissioner's Advisory Group/CAG) is authorized under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463. Commissioner T. Coleman Andrews established the first CAG in 1953. Its primary purpose is to provide an organized public forum for discussion of relevant tax administration issues between IRS officials and representatives of the public. Through the years, the Council has focused on broad tax administration matters. Various groups have suggested operational improvements, offered constructive observations about IRS' current or proposed policies, programs, and procedures, and advised the Commissioner on particular issues having substantive effect on Federal tax administration.

Desired Skills And Qualifications

The "ideal" IRSAC member is well-rounded, with a strong tax or business background and excellent communications skills, brings years of practical experience and knowledge to the group, and is able to interact in a diversified environment. *(continued on next page)*

Desired Skills And Qualifications (continued)

The IRSAC should mirror our diverse taxpayer customer base. We are looking for members with a background that includes several of the following: applying tax law knowledge in the resolution of complex tax issues; developing and implementing customer service initiatives and tools; experience advising and/or as a business owner and entrepreneur, implementing business management and improvements, establishing successful strategic partnerships; and, examining situations and issues from a "macro" viewpoint.

Commitments

What can you expect if selected to serve on the IRSAC? You will be expected to attend all public meetings and formal working sessions held during your term on the Council. You should expect to spend an average of 200 hours each year on IRSAC activities. Members usually serve a two year term, with the possibility of serving an additional year at the Commissioner's discretion. During a regular year, members will participate in two public meetings, which are open to the public under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Members also take part in at least two working sessions and all new members attend an orientation session. These meetings are generally held in Washington, DC.

The agenda for each public meeting is developed jointly by the Advisory Council and IRS, and is approved by the Commissioner. The IRSAC is further segmented into subgroups that work with IRS counterparts to address specific, as well as ad hoc, tax administration issues on which the Commissioner needs external advice and guidance

Annual Federal income tax, FBI, and practitioner checks are required of all IRSAC members and applicants to the Council. Members are not paid for their services. However, travel expenses to the public meetings and orientation sessions, such as air fare, per diem, and transportation to and from the airport, are reimbursed within prescribed Federal travel limitations. Members are responsible for all expenses incurred to attend working sessions, as well as other incidental expenses such as telephone, fax, and postage charges. Members are also expected to attend all scheduled public meetings, as well as working sessions, and annual orientation for new members.

To Apply

If you are interested in applying for membership on the IRSAC, please complete the membership application and tax check waiver form and return them to the address specified on the application. The Office of Public Liaison and Small Business Affairs will contact you to confirm receipt of your application and will keep you informed of the status of your application. The best qualified applicants may be asked to participate in an interview - in person or via telephone - prior to making any final selections.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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